

LIBRARY

RURAL DISTRICT OF WELWYN.

Interim Annual Medical Report for the year 1945.

In November of this year Dr. Trevor Thomas returned to his duties as Medical Officer of Health, after serving for six years in the Royal Air Force.

1. Statistics.

Rateable value at December 31st, 1945.	£34,430.
Inhabited houses at December 31st, 1945.	1,363.

The population figure supplied by the Registrar General was 4,792. Statistics have been calculated with this figure.

Number of deaths from all causes.	41.					
Number of live births.	<table> <tr> <td>Legitimate.</td> <td>66</td> <td rowspan="2">) 70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Illegitimate.</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	Legitimate.	66) 70	Illegitimate.	4
Legitimate.	66) 70				
Illegitimate.	4					
Number of still births.	<table> <tr> <td>Legitimate.</td> <td>3</td> <td rowspan="2">) 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Illegitimate.</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Legitimate.	3) 3	Illegitimate.	-
Legitimate.	3) 3				
Illegitimate.	-					
Number of deaths of infants under one year.	<table> <tr> <td>Legitimate.</td> <td>1</td> <td rowspan="2">) 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Illegitimate.</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Legitimate.	1) 1	Illegitimate.	-
Legitimate.	1) 1				
Illegitimate.	-					

	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population.	14.60	16.44	16.29	15.57
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births.	41.03	24.1	60.24	25.97
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the population.	8.56	8.91	10.23	10.52
Death rate of all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	15.15	40.55	13.35	73.53
Death rate of all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	----	----	----	----

Death rate for all infants under one year for England and Wales is 46.

2. Infectious Disease.

The following cases were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.	6.
Whooping Cough.	6.
Measles.	101.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1.
Tuberculosis.	8.
Erysipelas.	1.
Poliomyelitis.	1.

3. Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 28 children under five and 3 children over five years of age were immunised.

4. Tuberculosis.

There was one death from Tuberculosis during the year.

	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-pulm.</u>	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-pulm.</u>
On the register 31st December 1944.	11	6	4	4
Removals from register during the year.	3	-	1	1
Added to register during the year.	3	1	3	1
Cases on register at 31st December 1945.	11	7	6	4

5. Water Supply.

(a) Public Supply.

A very small dose of chlorine has been continuously applied to all public water supplies throughout the year.

Samples taken from the various storages in turn have been submitted monthly for analysis and/or bacteriological examination. The reports have been consistently satisfactory.

Public supply is available throughout the Parish of Welwyn and the greater part of the Parish of Ayot St. Peter.

The average weekly consumption during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1946 was :-

- (i) From Welwyn Garden City Waterworks. 1,524,750 gallons.
(including 327,500 gals, per week supplied in bulk to Hertford R.D.C.)
- (ii) From Welwyn Waterworks. 172,684 gallons.
- (iii) Total from the two sources consumed in Welwyn R.D. 1,697,434 gallons.

(b) Private Supplies.

The Parish of Ayot St. Lawrence remains, as before, dependent upon private supplies.

6. Drainage and Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No material alteration in the conditions prevailing throughout the District has occurred during the year.

The number of cesspools or sewage tanks emptied by the Council's Cesspool Emptier during the year was 514. (815 loads - average 1.58 loads per emptying.)

In addition the sewage tank at Oaklands for which the Council is responsible was emptied 90 times (438 loads - average 4.87 loads per emptying), and 159 loads were taken from various tanks at the Sewage Disposal Works to save manual labour.

Included above are 28 cesspools (38 loads) outside the Welwyn Rural District in respect of which payment was received.

The average daily flow at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works was 64,928 gallons. The lowest daily flow was 40,000 gallons on 29th January on which day there was a snow fall equivalent to 0.50 ins. of rain. The highest daily flow was 176,000 gallons on 28th December on which day there was a snow and rain fall equivalent to 0.80 ins. of rain, following a fall of 0.78 ins. on the previous day.

7. Rainfall.

The total rainfall recorded at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works during the year was 22.575 ins.

The average annual rainfall for the previous five years (1941 - 45) was 22.923 ins.

During 1945 there was a measurable fall of rain (and/or snow) on 157 separate days; the heaviest daily fall being 1.75 ins. on 14th July. The wettest month was December with 3.40 ins. of rain and the driest month was November with only 0.42 ins.

8. House Refuse and Salvage Collection.

Separate house to house collection of Refuse and Salvage has, as before, been carried out by contract throughout the year; refuse and salvage being collected in alternate weeks, i.e. a fortnightly collection of each.

The quantity of salvage of various types which was sold during the year was 107 tons 5 cwts 1 qr. and payment received for this was £432. 7. 8d., which was a slight improvement on the previous year.

The grand total for salvage since a separate salvage collection was started in March 1940 is 780 tons 14 cwts. which has been sold for £2,462. 10. 4d.

9. Sanitary Inspections and Visits for Special Purposes.

Premises visited.	88.
Number of visits.	142.

<u>Infectious Diseases etc.</u>	<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Visits.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	5.	5.
Diphtheria.	2.	2.
Erysipelas.	1.	1.
Tuberculosis.	3.	3.

Disinfection of premises was carried out as necessary.

Nuisances.

Drains.	1.	3.
Cesspools.	2.	2.
Accumulation of refuse.	1.	1.
Overcrowding.	2.	3.
Miscellaneous.	2.	2.
Moveable Dwellings.	1.	1.
Housing Defects.	10.	14.
Verminous Premises.	3.	9.
Milk and Dairies.	13.	54.
Food.	42.	42.
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	88.	142.
	-----	-----

10. Moveable Dwellings - Public Health Act 1936, Sec. 269.

Seven licences to station caravans on various sites were issued during the year.

11. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Three infestations were reported. The premises were treated and, so far as could be ascertained from subsequent inspections, were cleared.

12. Housing.

(i) New Houses.

One new house was completed during the year by private enterprise.

(ii) Housing conditions generally.

There was no material change during the year but some progress was made in the preparation of the Council's Scheme for new housing.

The site preparation works for Ten Temporary Bungalows at Maran Close, Welwyn, were nearing completion at the end of the year.

A tender for the site preparation works for 36 Temporary Bungalows at Wickfield Close, Woolmer Green was accepted in December.

A draft lay-out for the 21 acre site (Hawbush Common) at Welwyn was approved by the Ministry of Health.

The site lay-out and house plans for 24 permanent houses at Broadfield Road, Woolmer Green were approved by the Ministry of Health.

13. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Food as detailed below was inspected and certified unfit for human consumption and either destroyed, disposed of as pig or poultry food or returned to the suppliers for salvage. Certificates were issued in all cases to the persons by whom the food was held at the time of inspection in accordance with the war emergency arrangements agreed with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Food.

<u>Food in tins or other containers.</u>	<u>No. of containers.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>
Milk.	154.	129 lbs.
Honey.	3	6
Marmalade & Jam.	75	90
Pork & Beans.	1	1
Tongue.	1	6
Ham.	27	39½
Vegetables, miscellaneous.	35	26
Fish, miscellaneous.	98	223
Beef.	27	16½
Pork.	18	16
Butter.	14	14
Cake mixture & Custard Powder.	28	14
	----	----
	481.	581 lbs.
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<u>Loose Foods.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>
Split Peas.	119 lbs
Lentils.	35
Barley.	30
Macaroni.	56
Custard Powder.	30
Bacon.	12½
Sausages.	24
Mutton.	50
Cake.	16½
Butter.	54
Pork.	19

	446

Total Weight of all foods. 8 cwt. 51 lbs.

14. Typhus.

The mutual aid scheme referred to in the 1943 Report remains nominally in being but there has been no occasion to operate it and there have been no meetings or drills during the year.

Trevor Thomas.

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Welwyn.
Herts.

